

# West Hartford Fellowship Housing – History and Mission

West Hartford Fellowship Housing, Inc. WHFH II, and WHFH III (WHFH) are non-profit Connecticut corporations and are tax-exempt under the provisions of Section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code. WHFH Development Corp. also a 501(c)(3) was created to develop, fundraise and finance the redevelopment of WHFH while ensuring financial and operational efficiencies position the organization to continue as a leading center of excellence in affordable housing and services. WHFH has an established record for a half a century of providing high quality housing and services to seniors and the mobility impaired. WHFH continues to fulfill its mission ***“to provide for elderly families and elderly persons of a non-profit basis rental housing and related facilities and services specially designed to meet the physical and social needs of the aged and contribute to their health, happiness and usefulness in longer living.”*** Services provided by WHFH are available to all.

WHFH is governed by a dedicated volunteer board of directors comprised of members of area churches, synagogues, and town’s people. The board drives strategy and mission while ensuring policy and procedures exceed the highest standards for the industry.

50 years ago, in response to a growing need for safe, affordable elderly housing, a group of advocates, The Town of West Hartford and a new federal grant program came together to create what is now a thriving senior living community providing housing and services to over 250 residents. WHFH current physical plant encompasses 24 buildings seated on approximately 9 acres of Town owned land located on Starkel road, adjacent to Bishops corner. The campus has expanded over the years resulting in three major developments which still exist today.

In 1970 the first cluster of housing was built with funding from a HUD 236 loan. This allowed for new construction of nearly 100 units of affordable elderly housing. The program included 20 section 8 rent subsidies offering very low income seniors the opportunity to live independently and avoid having to move to a nursing home or forced into a homeless shelter. The program was so successful that a short five years later, a second corporation was formed (WHFH II) and the non-profit was granted a State of CT CHFA loan resulting in an additional 70 units being constructed accommodating more affordable elderly housing in town. In 1991 the organization formed a third non-profit (WHFH III) and created its first fully subsidized senior living facility adding 44 units to the campus.

Our campus wide modernization plan includes the demolition of aging buildings to be replaced with 6 modern, multi-story housing units strategically placed in a newly designed special development district. The master plan encompasses a thoughtful approach to senior living incorporating 6 ground floor connectors, 16,000 SF of activity and program space, and a communal courtyard promising to expand life enrichment with increased safety and ease of access. The plan calls to expand the number of apartments from its current 213 to its proposed 308. The increased number is a direct result of meeting the need. Currently the housing project has an extensive waiting list. We see this as just the beginning. Currently, 18% of West Hartford residents are over the age of 65. Nationally, the demand research reveals that the number of individuals aged 65 and older is projected to increase annually by 12 percent, promising that the senior population will double by the year 2030.

With the Town of West Hartford’s Economic Development Department paving the way for growth in West Hartford, and Fellowship’s close proximity to the town senior center, healthcare, churches, synagogues, grocery shopping, restaurants, retail and public transportation, our location has great potential to address the needs for more affordable senior services in West Hartford.

The movement to Affordable Housing with Community Based Services is rapidly growing and WHFH has the advantage of a seasoned established program ready for adapting. We look forward to building a brighter future for seniors in our community.